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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Eleventh special session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Thursday, 20 March 1980, at 6 p.m.

President: Mr. HYERGES (Hungary)

CONTENTS

The contribution of UNCTAD to the preparation of the New International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (agenda item 2) (continued)

Adoption of the report of the Board to the General Assembly (agenda item 4)

Closure of the session

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The meeting was called to order at 9.25 a.m.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF UNCTAD TO THE PREPARATION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (agenda item 2) (TD/B/775, TD/B/785, TD/B/787, TD/B/791 and Add.1) (continued)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the extensive discussions which had taken place on the reports of the High-level Intergovernmental Group on the contribution of UNCTAD to the preparation of the new International Development Strategy on its first (TD/B/789) and second (TD/B/791 and Add.1) sessions. A variety of opinions had been expressed on how work on the Strategy should be continued in UNCTAD but there seemed to be no consensus. He therefore asked whether any group wished to propose a resumption of the work of the High-level Intergovernmental Group on the contribution of UNCTAD to the preparation of a new International Development Strategy.

2. Mr. CASTRO AZAUAR (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the position of that Group was that, given the impossibility of negotiating on the documents concerned, the Group wished them to be officially transmitted to the Preparatory Committee in New York for consideration as UNCTAD's contribution to the preparation of the new International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

3. The PRESIDENT invited the Board to consider the proposal made by the Group of 77 to transmit the High-level Intergovernmental Group's reports and the annexes thereto to the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee for the new International Development Strategy as UNCTAD's contribution to the new International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

4. The proposal was adopted.

5. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Board should take note of the report of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries (TD/B/787) and the report of the Group of High-level Experts on the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (TD/B/775) and decide to transmit those two reports to the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee for the new International Development Strategy as background documents.

6. The President's proposal was adopted.

7. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said that, while he did not object to the decision just taken by the Board to transmit the documents submitted by regional groups to the High-level Intergovernmental Group as the contribution of UNCTAD to the formulation of a development strategy for the Third Development Decade, he wished to state how his delegation viewed that decision. He had serious doubts as to whether documents conflicting both in form and in substance could be clearly identified by the Preparatory Committee as a contribution of UNCTAD. He agreed, however, that the documents should be transmitted to New York so that the Preparatory Committee might at least know that some attempt had been made by UNCTAD to make a contribution to the preparation of the new International Development Strategy.

8. Mr. CLOVER AMPEY (Ghana) said that it was not his delegation's intention to obstruct the consensus by which UNCTAD's contribution to the strategy for the Third Development Decade had been adopted. It would be recalled, however, that his delegation had expressed dissatisfaction at the way in which the situation was being handled, and it still had reservations regarding the way in which the documents submitted by the various regional groups had merely been collected for transmission to the Preparatory Committee without there having been a serious discussion of them. His delegation in Geneva would report to its counterpart in New York on how the matter had been handled.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (agenda item 4) (TD/B/L.557)

9. Mr. ATALAHTI (Finland), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Board on its eleventh special session (TD/B/L.557) and drew attention to some necessary editorial amendments to the text of chapter II, section V.

10. The PRESIDENT invited the Board to consider the draft report.

11. Mrs. CHEN DE (Panama) said that her delegation wished the following paragraph to be added to the report after paragraph 55:

> "The representative of Panama wished to place on record that her country, Panama, had expressed reservations with regard to paragraph 86 (c) of section VI of the Group of 77 text, which dealt with transport. Some of the reasons for which her country had such reservations had been stated in the plenary of the Group of 77 regional meeting and additional reasons had been given in the plenary of the High-level Intergovernmental Group on the contribution of UNCTAD to the preparation of the new international development strategy on its second session. Her delegation would continue to give its reasons within the appropriate bodies."

12. The addition of the paragraph proposed by the Panamanian representative was approved.

13. The draft report (TD/B/L.557), as a whole, as thus amended and with further minor drafting amendments, was approved.

14. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Board authorized the Rapporteur to complete the report as required after the close of its session.

15. It was so decided.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

16. After an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.